



JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 OCT 2005 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kenji ASAOKURA et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/541,498

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016430)

I.A. Filed : December 22, 2003

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

For : IMAGE HEATING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2003/016430, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report was enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on July 7, 2005. The Examiner is requested to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-74009, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 1 and 3 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2001-125407, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-171889, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2000-235329, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

U.S. Patent No. 5,822,669; and

European Patent Publication No. EP 0 649 072.

Further, Applicants call to the Examiner's attention co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/542,006 to ASAKURA et al., which was filed on July 12, 2005.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, a copy of the U.S. patent application is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above material and cited the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are

attached hereto and the above-noted documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenji ASAKURA et al.



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